BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 70% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 66,795 | Nifty 17,749 | Gold 59,726 | Silver 75,824 | Dollar 82.05 | Euro 92.19 | GBP 107.40

NGT ordered removal of huts from Bellandur Lake's buffer zone — not only are they not removed, now a new construction is coming up

STILL BUFFERING

BBMP marshals 'being abused when they try to stop work'

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

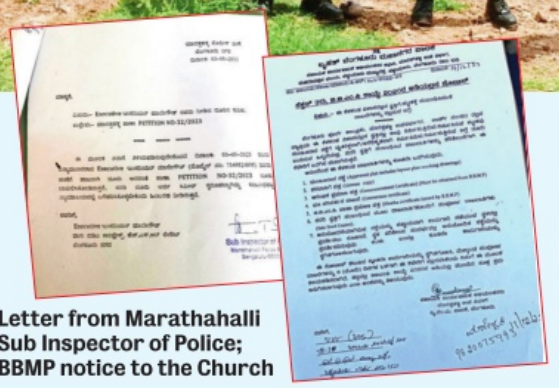
The State Government, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and lake activists have been striving to keep encroachers off from water bodies. Bellandur Lake has its fair share of issues, and the National Green Tribunal had ordered the eviction of Ambedkar Slum its buffer zone. The NGT had constituted a monitoring committee to ensure eviction of encroachments in the buffer zone. But, it has been four years, and the authorities concerned are yet to clear the encroachments.

Now, the ongoing construction of a religious structure has become a bone of contention between the BBMP marshals and a few residents of Dr Ambedkar Nagar. While construction has continued unabated, it is alleged that a few women also use abusive language against the marshals whenever they attempt to stop the work.

"Our marshals have been facing a lot of problems from the slum-dwellers and those constructing the structure. The marshals are guarding the structure under construction round the clock. The residents abuse and threaten the marshals. One of our marshals told me that one

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

BBMP marshals guarding the illegal structure under construction



Letter from Marathahalli Sub Inspector of Police; BBMP notice to the Church

"The construction is illegal and deserves to be demolished as it is in the buffer zone. I extend my support to hapless BBMP marshals

– Venkatesh M, lake activist

Conflict situation

Human-wildlife conflict cases double in 5 years in K'taka; B'luru tops ex-gratia cases list

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The total number of human-wildlife conflict cases in Karnataka has doubled over the last five years. According to the official data, while 19,120 conflict cases were recorded in 2018-19, this number has surged to over 40,000 in 2022-23. In 2019-20, 23,480 cases were registered, followed by 28,559 cases in 2020-21 and 36,982 human-wildlife conflict cases in 2021-22. These cases include crop damages, cattle killed, human deaths, permanent and partial disabilities, injuries, and property losses.

The incidents of human deaths and permanent disabilities in the event of such conflicts have registered a surge too. Merely three cases of human casualties and permanent disability were recorded in 2018-18. However, in 2022-23, this number has gone up to 190.

According to the officials from Karnataka Forest Department, the majority of the cases of human-wildlife conflict are that of property damage, cattle kill, and crop loss. The department attributes these cases to the increase in the number of big cat populations and app-based payment of ex-gratia.

"The number of tigers and leopards has increased in the entire landscape. This is leading to the dispersal of these big cats in villages located at forest fringes. Moreover, we are also witnessing elephants moving

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Electric beats

Get the chance to join the extraordinary DJ Harssh Didwania, popularly known as Beat Inspector, who is set to play an electrifying note. Known for his infectious energy and ability to mesmerise his audience, he guarantees an amazing experience for music enthusiasts.
Where: Babylonia, Bengaluru
When: July 21; 8 pm onwards

02 Crochet knots

Learn the delicate art of crocheting this July from Pragnya Parchure. This class will help you learn about different hooks and yarns, every basic knot of crochet, such as slip stitch, single crochet, half double crochet, triple crochet, and their variations, and more. All materials will be provided at the venue.
Where: Atta Galatta, 178, 5th Main, 9th Cross, 1st Stage Indiranagar; When: July 19 to 26; 4:30 pm–6:30 pm; Contact: 9886577199

03 Dance fusion

Grab the opportunity to witness the fusion of flamenco and contemporary dance by Naya Binghi, a renowned Israeli dancer who is known for her exceptional dance techniques. The workshop is a great way to learn about themes of struggle through Binghi's movements.
Where: Shoonya space Workshop
When: July 22 and 23; 3:00 – 4:30 pm

What's the right age?

Parents demand elimination of minimum age requirement for kids' admission to first grade in school

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

With the state government deciding to scrap the National Education Policy (NEP) introduced by the previous BJP government, a section of parents is now urging the government to also eliminate the minimum six-year age policy.

One parent stated, "The government has decided to abandon the NEP and revise the textbooks. Now, there is confusion among parents as Karnataka was the first state to implement the NEP, and now it may become one of the first states in the country to revoke it after implementation. So, we want the government to remove the mandatory six-year minimum age requirement for admission to the first grade, as many students are at risk of losing their admission."

Under the NEP, the education department had set the minimum age for admission to Grade 1 at six years. Another parent added, "Now that the NEP is no longer in effect, the age requirement needs to be revised. Many parents are hesitant to admit their children to either LKG or the first grade due to age concerns. Therefore, the education department should convene a meeting to address the age issue. Previously, the age requirement for LKG was 3.10 to 4.10, and it should be reinstated."

However, Karnataka Associated Managements of English Medium Schools (KAMS) General Secretary, D Shashi Kumar, argued that the NEP, although not implemented for primary education, has nothing to do with the age criterion. The age criterion was established according to the Right to Education (RTE) rules.

He said, "Under NEP, the age range was stated as 3 to 18 years. When a child turns six years old, they will be in the first grade. I believe the six-year rule is quite reasonable. It has been in place for some time, although there was previously a two-month relaxation. This can always be a subject of dispute. For instance, if a child falls short by one day, they may lose one year. There will always be a section of people who will be affected. This is a national issue, and the Union Ministry has instructed all school boards, including CBSE and ICSE, to implement the six-year rule. Any child transitioning between different boards or states will be affected if the minimum age rule is relaxed."

> **"Now that the NEP is no longer in effect, the age requirement needs to be revised. Many parents are hesitant to admit their kids**
> – a parent

The central government had directed schools in February to enforce six years as the minimum age for admission to Grade 1

The central government had directed schools in February of this year to enforce six years as the minimum age for admission to Grade 1. However, the state government announced that while they would comply with the rule, enforcement would not be implemented in the upcoming academic year but rather from 2025-26.

The directive urged states to align their admission age for Grade I to 6+ years, citing the NEP 2020's recommendation to prioritise the strengthening of foundation stage learning for children. The directive said, "Hence, we are reiterating directions to all the state governments to align their age of admission with the policy and provide admission to Grade I at the age of 6+ years." The state government had also issued a circular stating that the new age requirement would be effective in the 2025–26 academic year. Therefore, its order would apply to parents who had admitted their children to LKG or UKG before the official order was issued.

Another official from the state education department explained that initially, the School Education Department had set six years as the minimum age starting from the previous academic year.

However, this was met with opposition from schools and parents, as many children had already been admitted to schools and this order would require them to repeat another year.

No stop to Illegal construction on lake buffer zone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

woman has threatened to file a case against me," said Captain Sadashiv Badiger, who heads 22 marshals at Bellandur Lake.

When asked why the BBMP marshals had allowed the building to be constructed to this level, Captain Badiger said he has already brought the issue to the notice of BBMP and BDA officials.

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, BBMP Marathahalli Sub Division Assistant Executive Engineer had issued a notice on 17 December 2022 to the woman behind the construction, asking her to produce approved plan and license copy, land conversion certificate, and khata issued by the BBMP. However, no action was taken either to demolish the structure under construction or stop the construction work. The BDA East Division Executive Engineer lodged a complaint with Marathahalli Police on May 3, 2023, against the illegal construction in the buffer zone. However, the Sub Inspector of Police, Marathahalli Police Station issued an acknowledgement and also a letter stating that the complaint is civil in nature and it is better to resolve the issue through the court.

When this correspondent visited the spot on Monday morning, Bhagya, a resident who works at an anganwadi centre, queried the reason for visiting the construction site. She even questioned the correspondent to reveal the names of those who complained about the construction of the structure. "The church (under construction) belongs to Kumar. We have been residing here for more than 50 years. I work at the anganwadi centre. We will vacate this place if the government provides us a suitable place for living," said Bhagya.

Lake activists have expressed disappointment over the ongoing construction of the structure. "The construction is illegal and deserves to be demolished as it is being constructed in the buffer zone. I sympathise with and extend my support to hapless BBMP marshals who are struggling a lot to ensure no construction activities in the buffer zone. The authorities must demolish the structure and evict all the slum-dwellers to another location," said Venkatesh M, a lake activist from Yemalur.

Sonali Singh, a lake activist from Bellandur, said the new illegal construction was unfortunate. "Despite authorities being aware of it, they are not doing anything about it," said Singh.

When informed about this, BDA assistant executive engineer said he has already informed Karnataka Slum Development Board assistant executive engineer about the illegal construction but the latter feigned ignorance of any communication from the former. Meanwhile, BBMP Joint Commissioner Dr Dakshayani assured us that the matter would be looked into. "I will send the authorities to the spot soon," Dr Daksyani said.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP for on-going illegal construction in the buffer zone of Bellandur Lake, Prof. TV Ramachandra, former member of National Green Tribunal (NGT) monitoring committee on Bellandur and Varthur Lakes, said the people residing in the buffer zone of Bellandur Lake have no business to live there. "The NGT has also made it clear to remove all the structures. The Karnataka Slum Development Board has to ensure removal of all the temporary structures put up in the buffer zone," said Prof Ramachandra.

Long road to justice

State records 78 cases of rape ivolving SC/ST women in 2023 so far; activists say marginalised women more prone to violence

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka recorded 78 cases of rape involving women from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) by non-SC/ST people in 2023 so far.

According to the latest data by the police, the state has recorded a total of 755 crimes against SC/ST people as of May 2023. In May alone, 17 SC/ST women were raped in the state. The data shows that on average, one SC/ST woman is raped every two days, and this number is just on paper. It is also said that only a few survivors approach the police to report the crime.

Dalit activists say that women belonging to certain castes and economic conditions are more prone to violence. They also add that the lack of representation in the police department or at high levels of the judiciary is a reason why people are denied justice.

"Our state is no stranger to caste violence against women. We have always been at the forefront of caste-related sexual violence in the country. The system is loaded with people from the dominant caste, be it in the judiciary or the police department. Therefore, the accused know that they will not be convicted. The data shows that the conviction rate is extremely low in these cases. Another thing is that SC/ST people don't have the privilege to go and report rape cases, as they have to work in the same area or live with the same people, so they get concerned about their safety," said R Manohar, Regional Coordinator, Human Rights Defenders Alert India (HRDA), and Director of CARE.

He adds that the state is unable to implement the atrocities act and says that committees that should be set up to protect the rights of the minority are not properly functional.

"The situation has been the same for many years. We keep requesting the government to ensure regular meetings are held or cases are analysed, but it doesn't happen. The state needs to pull up its socks and be more vigilant," he added.

Pradeep More, Deputy Director, Dalit Foundation, says that Dalit women are the worst hit by discrimination because firstly, they are discriminated against in their own homes for being a woman, and then in society for being Dalit.

"They are nowhere seen as human beings; they are merely seen as objects. Women, in general, in society, face more violence, and when they are from vulnerable communities, they are far more prone to abuse and harassment. For the last two months, not only in Karnataka, but in several states across India, cases of caste violence against women are being reported. Our Constitution mentions equality and dignity, but what is happening on the ground is the exact opposite," he said.

> **The system is loaded with people from the dominant caste, be it in the judiciary or the police department**
>
> – R Manohar, CARE

He adds that there is no fear of the police amongst people because they know that if there is strong political backing, they will not be convicted.

"It is also a failure from the government's side that they are not conducting any preventive programs or educating people about the laws in place. There are a few NGOs that are working towards creating awareness, but in the end, it's the government that has funds to organise awareness drives on a large scale," added More.

Track, trash, repeat

BBMP devising plan to monitor waste disposal from source to end in light of debris dumping

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

To address the issue of debris being dumped on footpaths, roads, and flyovers in the city, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is devising a comprehensive plan. The new approach involves hiring a contractor who will be responsible for collecting trash directly from its source and ensuring its proper disposal at designated waste plants.

BBMP Chief Commissioner, Tushar Giri Nath, on Tuesday, said the need for this plan as the city's existing trash recycling plants, presently operated by two private contractors, are significantly underutilised. To implement this new system effectively, the BBMP will follow a public-private partnership model and has already prepared tenders for different zones.

"The primary objective is to establish an end-to-end waste management process, starting from the collection of trash at its source and continuing until it is fully recycled or disposed of properly. In response to the rampant dumping of trash on roads and footpaths, the BBMP has been penalising offenders," he said.

To enhance monitoring and control, the BBMP has decided to equip the waste collection trucks with GPS devices to track their movements.

This measure aims to prevent some truck operators from illegally disposing of garbage on vacant lands, facilitated by unauthorised agents collecting money in exchange for allowing them to dump waste on these plots. The ambiguity surrounding the ownership of these vacant lands has made it challenging for authorities to take action.

It may be noted that this plan got a new lease of life during the recent city inspection by Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar.

In response to the rampant dumping of trash on roads, the BBMP has been penalising offenders

During his inspection, he saw how the debris was being dumped on footpaths and roads. DKS had said that the police and BBMP were informed to penalise the trucks for such dumping and said that there was a need for installation of GPS as it will not only prevent vehicles from dumping on the road but also give evidence to the agency about where garbage was being dumped.

Nath added, "We plan to increase penalties for those caught red-handed dumping waste illegally and have deployed marshals to closely monitor such activities and devise effective deterrents. The new tender for waste management services will hold the contractor responsible for the entire process from collection to disposal. The contractor will be required to collect trash from households, transport it using autos and trucks, and finally deliver it to the designated waste disposal site," he added.

Man kills parents

On Tuesday, a man was accused of assaulting and killing his parents under the Kodigehalli police station limits. The victims have been identified as Bhaskar and Shantha. The accused has been identified as Sharath, the couple's son.

Sharath is allegedly accused of killing his parents with a blunt object, possibly a metal rod. According to the sources, he had also assaulted his parents in the past.

The location was inspected by police and an investigation is presently ongoing. The motivation behind the murder has not yet been determined.

— BMB

Indian in Saudi jail: Karnataka HC seeks Central govt's reply

The High Court of Karnataka has sought a reply from the Union Government regarding legal help to the Indian national who has been jailed in Saudi Arabia.

The court on Monday asked the Centre whether the jailed person will be provided with an opportunity to appoint the advocate of his choice in an appeal and would the government help him in this regard.

It has also sought information on the jurisdiction of the local laws in Saudi Arabia and whether the investigation report from India can be submitted in courts there.

The court further asked whether an Indian diplomatic request to postpone the hearing of the appeal in Saudi Arabia till the police investigation in India is completed can be made.

The hearing of the petition was adjourned to August 8.

Shahilesh, from Mangaluru has been convicted and imprisoned in Saudi Arabia, where he was working, for alleged derogatory posts against the king and Islam.

His wife, Kavitha, has petitioned the High Court claiming that the posts, made on February 12 and 13, 2020, were made from a fake profile on Facebook and the local police had failed to provide the proof to Saudi Arabian authorities.

The local police had blamed Facebook for not cooperating.

Shailesh had put up a post in support of the Indian Government's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizenship (NRC). He allegedly received a threat call and deleted his account. Subsequently, a derogatory post against the Saudi king and Islam was uploaded.

Shailesh was arrested in Saudi Arabia, tried and sentenced to 15 years in jail. His wife lodged a police complaint in India alleging that her husband had informed her that a fake Facebook account was used to upload the post in his name.

He was arrested and jailed on February 23, 2020. — PTI

SRI SIDDHARTHA MEDICAL COLLEGE
Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education (SSAHE)
(Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
B.H. Road, Agalkote, Tumakuru - 572107. Karnataka

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Qualified, trained & experienced candidates with good communication skills are required for the following post

- Pharmacist (D Pharma, M.Pharma)
- Horticulturist (B.Sc., Horticulture)
- Social Workers (MSW)
- Lab Technicians (DMLT)
- Resident Medical Officer (MBBS/MD)
- Accountants (B.Com, M.Com)
- Librarian & Asst. Librarian (MLib.Sc)
- Cashiers (Any Degree)
- Hostel Managers (Any Degree)
- Medical Records Technician (B.Sc., M.Sc.,)
- Public Relations Officer - PRO (Journalism/Electronic Media)
- Nursing Superintendent (M.Sc Nursing)
- OT Staff (PUC)
- Nurses (GNM, B.Sc., Nursing)
- Casualty Medical Officer (MBBS)

AC Technician | Bio Medical Engineer | Plumber | Electrician

How to Apply: Interested & Eligible Candidates are requested to apply through in person or e-mail within 10 days to the Address mentioned below
Post Address:
HR, 2nd Floor, SSMC Main Block, Agalkote, Tumakuru - 07
Contact : +91 9036383660 | e-mail: hr@ssmctumkur.org

Builder throws setback norms out of the window

Authorities fail to address 'illegal' construction, residents demand action

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Authorities from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) have come under scrutiny for their alleged negligence in addressing illegal construction activities at ST Bed Layout. The residents' frustration reached a tipping point as a builder commenced construction without adhering to the necessary norms, leading to potential hazards for the community.

The residents said that the builder's failure to follow setback norms resulted in a blind curve at one corner of the structure. Recent accidents near the curve have raised concerns among motorists who struggle to anticipate oncoming vehicles due to restricted visibility. Residents have voiced their objections to the construction and requested the contractor to leave sufficient space between the footpath and the building, in compliance with building by-laws.

"Recently, a road accident took place near the curve. With the corner becoming a blind curve, it has become tough for motorists to notice the vehicles coming opposite the corner. We have requested the contractor engaged by the builder to leave sufficient space between the footpath and the structure," said Gopi Krishna, a resident.

The residents gathered at the construction site on Monday demanding the contractor to stop the work, but in vain. "We are not against the construction of the building if the builder follows the building by-laws. If allowed the construction of the structure, there will be no space for a footpath till the construction is completed. It will be a permanent problem for the motorists if the construction is allowed without leaving the space as per the norms," said Rajendra Babu Reddy, president of ST Bed Layout Residents' Welfare Association.

(Left) Encorachment of footpath by the builder at ST Bed Layout; (Right) Steel frames are yet to be removed from the footpath; (Below) Residents objecting to illegal construction at ST Bed Layout

On Tuesday, the residents approached BTM Layout MLA and Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy seeking his intervention to stop the construction of the structure that poses a danger to motorists. The minister promptly intervened and directed the BBMP executive engineer to halt the construction. "We are very happy with the minister's directive to the BBMP executive engineer. The minister told us that residents' welfare is important to him," said Rajendra.

Residents said that in response to the minister's directive, the construction work came to a stop, and some progress was made in removing blue galvanised iron sheets but the iron frames are yet to be removed.

"We are happy with the stopping of the construction work. It will be a great help for pedestrians if the iron frames are removed from the roadside. I want the BBMP executive engineer to visit the spot and direct the builder to remove these iron frames without any delay," said a resident.

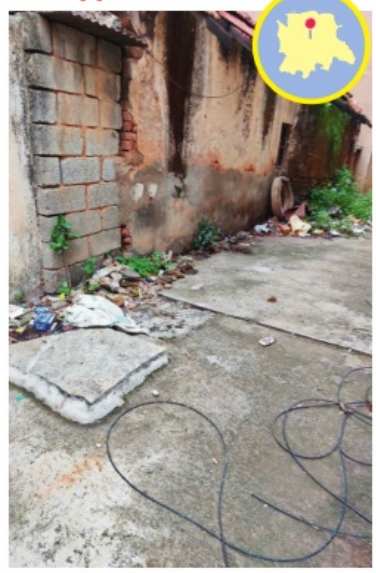
BBMP executive engineer Ashok Biradar said that he ensured the construction work stopped immediately. "I asked the builder to produce the plan approved by the BDA since the layout is developed by the BDA.

Our responsibility is to ensure that the builder does not violate building by-laws while constructing the structure. It seems the builder did not apply for the plan approval from the BDA," said the executive engineer. However, questions remain as to how the construction was allowed to progress without proper authorization.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage menace

Marappa Garden



Garbage dumped near No.1, 3rd Cross Road, Marappa Garden, JC Nagar, and residents are struggling with stench and flies.

Path breakers

Jayanagar

Vehicles parked on the footpath at Gold Street, 33rd Cross, 10th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, obstruct the pedestrian pathway.

40,000 human-wildlife conflict cases in 2022-23

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to forest areas that are yet to be barricaded. Last, but not least, the department has a robust online system for farmers to apply for ex-gratia in case of any human-wildlife conflict incidents. The system allows us to inspect and verify the claim as soon as they are registered and transfer the compensation to their bank accounts directly. Before this system was introduced in 2018, not many people were coming forward to claim ex-gratia. Now they are aware of the system, which works at a much faster pace," said Kumar Pushkar, APCCF (Wildlife), Karnataka Forest Department.

Ex-gratia triples

With the surge in conflict cases, the compensation paid for wildlife-related losses in the state has tripled too. While the Karnataka Forest Department paid Rs 1,227 lakh in 2018-19, the ex-gratia amount paid by the department in 2022-23 has reached Rs 3,413 lakh.

In December 2022, the state government increased the ex-gratia amount in human deaths and crop damage cases.

While a compensation of Rs 7.5 lakh was given earlier in case of human death, it has now doubled to Rs 15 lakh. Similarly, the ex-gratia amount for crop damage has been doubled too. Where earlier a compensation of Rs 1,320 was given in the event of loss of one quintal of paddy, this amount is now Rs 2,640.

In the case of permanent disability, an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh is paid to the disabled person, and in the case of partial disability, an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh is paid. A monthly pension of Rs 4,000 for five years is also given along with the ex-gratia to the family of a person killed by wild animals and for permanent disability caused by wild animals.

However, wildlife conservationists say the increase in compensation would have been beneficial if it had a positive impact on wildlife mortality. "For instance, when it comes to elephant-human conflict, ex-gratia is justified if the number of elephants dying due to unnatural causes such as electrocution would have gone down.

This would have implied that we have mitigated the issue. However, this is not the case in Karnataka," said Ramesh Belagere, wildlife researcher, Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

Experts say the need of the hour is to increase areas under patrol and constitute more rapid action forces.

"The department has come up with motorable roads in various areas such as DB Kuppe in Nagarahole and Bannerghatta National Park.

Such stretches should be constructed in other high-conflict areas too. The department can obtain an NOC for such development work under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Moreover, the teams that patrol on foot are too small to drive away elephants inside the forest in case they spot any. While the rapid action force is available in high-conflict areas, smaller areas contiguous to high-conflict zones also need to be watched closely," said Belagere.

Bengaluru tops the chart

Bengaluru has been grabbing the top spot across Karnataka when it comes to the number of cases of ex-gratia. Between April 2022 and March 2023, the city recorded over 8,000 cases of crop damage, cattle killed cases, human deaths, permanent and partial disabilities, injuries, and property losses.

"Majority of the human-wildlife conflict cases in Bengaluru circle are reported from Ramanagara district. The area is adjacent to Bannerghatta National Park and Cauvery wildlife sanctuary.

The majority of these cases are of big cats preying on cattle in villages located on forest fringes. This is because a high leopard population in this landscape is high," said Pushkar.

Delimitation 'gone wrong' in Mahadevapura

Denizens want there to be 25 wards; separate municipal corporation to handle their zone

Iffath.Fathima
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Terming the delimitation of wards 'unscientific', members of Whitefield Rising have submitted a petition to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, who is also supervising the delimitation process. They want him to consider having 25 wards in the Mahadevapura zone instead of the present 13 wards. They also suggested establishing a separate municipal corporation or division of BBMP to handle the Mahadevapura zone.

Whitefield Rising had highlighted the unscientific delimitation of wards before too, in 2019 and 2020, but no action was taken.

Their members stated in a letter that with a 115 sq km area and 13 wards as per the most recent delimitation (which increased the wards from 8 to 13), the average size of a ward is still very big at 9 sq km. In terms of population, these are the fastest-growing areas of Bengaluru due to the ever -growing IT sector here. With a population of about 8 lakh at present, the average population per ward is over 61,000, which is almost double the recommended population of about 35,000 per ward.

The 13 delimited wards in Mahadevapura are Horamavu, Babusapalya, Kalkere, Ramurthy Nagar, Vijnapura, KR Puram, Medahalli, Basavanapura, Devasandra, Mahadevpura, Narayanpura, Vijnana Nagar, and HAL airport. Hoodi ward covers an area of 15.3 sq km, Kadugodi 11.88 sq km, Varthur 26.98 sq km, Bellandur 26.37 sq km, Hagadur 12.68 sq km, and Doddanekundi 12.12 sq km.

Accordingly, the members of Whitefield Rising suggested that there should be at least 25 wards in Mahadevapura zone or there should be a separate municipal corporation/division of BBMP to handle the Zone.

They also pointed out that the delimitation has resulted in unscientific boundaries of wards. "For instance, Belathur ward has four noncontiguous areas, the Doddanekkundi, Garudacharpalya, and AECS wards are very small, while Bellandur, Varthur, and Whitefield are humongous. This apart, boundaries are cut off at odd sections, making garbage and road management exceedingly difficult.

> **"Objection from many citizens across ward committees led to them increasing the number of wards from eight to 13 in Mahadevapura. But this is still not enough**

It was suggested that faster-growing areas like Whitefield, Varthur, and Bellandur be made smaller wards as their population will grow much faster, and more developed wards like AECS, Doddanekkundi, and Garudacharpalya can be made larger.

Anjali Saini from Whitefield Rising said, "Objection from many citizens across ward committees led to them increasing the number of wards from eight to 13 in Mahadevapura. But this is still not enough, and the latest demarcation is extremely unscientific.

The most scientific way would be to not only consider population density but also growth since the demarcation would now be valid for the next 10 years. If they can't increase the total number of wards, then technically, they could consolidate 10-12 wards in the central area which are less than 1.5 sq km.

They would still end up with a ward that is smaller than one single ward in Mahadevapura and increase the number in Mahadevapura so that resource allocation is fair and fuels productivity and efficiency."

Safety inspection of Bengaluru–Mysuru highway begins

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has constituted a committee to carry out safety inspections of the Bengaluru–Mysuru access-controlled highway.

The committee is currently on a visit to the site and will conclude their study by Thursday (by July 20).

In a release, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said the committee will submit the report within 10 days from the conclusion of their visit.

Inaugurated in March 2023, the 118 km long Bengaluru–Mysuru access-controlled highway corridor encompasses a portion of NH-275. The highway has cut travel time between the two cities in the state of Karnataka by almost half to just 75 minutes.

The corridor also entails four rail overbridges, nine major bridges, 40 minor bridges, 89 underpasses and overpasses and six bypasses constructed for the towns of Bidadi, Ramnagara, Channapatna, Maddur, Mandya, and Srirangapatna to resolve the problem of traffic congestion and to ease the traffic movement of the public.

The access-controlled highway also provides connectivity to Karnataka with Tamil Nadu and Kerala, decongesting Coorg, Srirangapatna, Wayanad, and Ooty. Improving safety on National Highways is one of the topmost priorities of NHAI and it is committed to ensuring a safe, smooth, and seamless travel experience for all commuters on the National Highways.

The Bengaluru – Mysuru access-controlled highway will ensure that the corridor continues to serve the people of Karnataka by promoting safe travel. **ANI**

Women power behind K'taka's direct-selling industry

Some of the successful women entrepreneurs

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Over 34,000 women entrepreneurs in Karnataka have propelled the direct selling industry in the state, according to the annual survey report released by the Indian Direct Selling Association (IDSA) here on Tuesday.

According to the report, Karnataka remains the leading market for direct selling in the southern region, empowering self-employment to 78,000 entrepreneurs in the state. The state recorded a total business turnover of Rs 1,128 crore during the financial year 2021-22.

The reports stated that the state has significantly contributed to the exchequer, generating Rs 170 crore in taxes during the same period. The direct selling sector in Karnataka maintained a steady count of 78,000 direct sellers, with an impressive 34,000 being women.

"Karnataka continues to be a key market for the direct selling industry. The growth of over nine per cent clearly reflects that the direct selling industry in the state could withstand the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, which extended to the first quarter of the year," said Rajat Banerji, Chairman of the Indian Direct Selling Association.

He said that direct selling has provided sustainable self-employment and micro-entrepreneurship opportunities for nearly 84 lakh people in the country and has demonstrated consistent and sustained growth with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 13 per cent over the period of the last four financial years down the line.

"The 19 member companies of IDSA can confidently lay claim to successfully protecting consumer interests as well as those of the 78,000 direct sellers in Karnataka," he said.

Former police officer Shankar Bidari said that the unemployment issue would be solved with self-employment. "Consumers get products at reasonable prices through direct selling which ensures quality products to consumers," said Shankar Bidari.

GUJARAT STATE FERTILIZERS & CHEMICALS LIMITED
CIN: L99999GJ1962PLC001121
1st Floor, Kasturi Apartment, 35/11, Langford Road Cross, Bangalore - 560025, Karnataka Website: www.gsfclimited.com

APPOINTMENT OF WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS IN KARNATAKA STATE

GSFC intent to appoint wholesale distributors for its fertilizer and agro product business at some specific locations in Karnataka State. Interested parties are requested to contact our **Regional Office, Bangalore** at **Mobile No.: +91 98861 71586** or **Email Id: rmbanglore@gsfcltd.com** to get details of specific district/location and the requisite mandatory information/ document to be submitted along with application. Complete application along with all documents shall reach to our Regional Office, Bangalore on above address **latest by 5:00 pm on 28.07.2023.** Incomplete application/application received after due date & time/wrongly filled application etc. will be rejected without giving any reason. GSFC reserves all rights to appoint or not appoint any wholesale distributor against this advertisement. GSFC reserves its unqualified right to revoke, cancel, defer appointment of distributors.

POLITICAL POTBOILER

INDIA alliance challenges BJP govt

Opposition parties unite for a common vision of India's future, to safeguard constitutional values

A Congress supporter waves the Tricolour during the second day of the joint Opposition meeting

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Since the BJP government took over at the centre, they have a penchant for acronyms to announce various schemes. The opposition parties who met in Bengaluru on Tuesday used a powerful acronym to take on the centre. If all goes well, 'INDIA' will take on the BJP in the next year's Lok Sabha polls. In a bid to challenge the ruling BJP-led NDA in the forthcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections, 26 opposition parties collectively came together and established a powerful alliance known as the "Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)." The leaders expressed their determination to uphold democracy, safeguard the Constitution, and protect the interests of the people of the country.

Formation of INDIA alliance

During the opposition meeting, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge announced the name of the alliance as the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). They also decided to establish an 11-member coordination committee to ensure effective collaboration among the parties. Further specific details and the composition of the committee will be finalised in the upcoming Mumbai meeting.

Taking on BJP and PM Narendra Modi

In the meeting, opposition leaders launched scathing attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of attempting to mend broken alliances out of fear of the united opposition. Despite their past differences, the opposition now stands united with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee referring to Rahul Gandhi as "our favourite." She boldly challenged the BJP, asserting that the people of India are patriots who stand for the welfare of the country and its citizens, including farmers and Dalits.

Concerns over misuse of constitutional provisions

One of the major concerns voiced by opposition leaders during the meeting was the alleged misuse of constitutional provisions by the BJP and the erosion of democratic values in India. The alliance emphasised the need for a united front to address the various challenges faced by the country, including economic troubles, unemployment, inflation, and undermining of the secular fabric.

Saving democracy and the idea of India

The opposition's primary focus is on safeguarding democracy, secularism, and social justice. Their intent is not solely to gain power but to protect the core fundamental values and identity of the nation. They expressed optimism that their collective efforts would send a resolute message of unity to the citizens of India, ultimately leading to a strong defeat for the BJP in the upcoming elections.

26 opposition parties established as "Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)."

SNAPSHOTS
from the meeting...

Posters targeting Nitish Kumar surface in Bengaluru

THE UNSTABLE PRIME MINISTERIAL CONTENDER
SULTANGANJ BRIDGE
Bangalore Rolls Out the Red Carpet for Bihar
CM Nitish Kumar

A poster war erupted in Bengaluru on Tuesday as posters and banners targeting Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar surfaced in the city. According to sources, the appearance of these posters coincided with the commencement of a joint Opposition Parties' meeting aimed at creating a united front against the ruling BJP alliances. The posters boldly labelled Kumar as the "Unstable Prime Ministerial Contender." The posters were prominently displayed near the Chalukya Circle, Windsor Manor Bridge, and Airport Road near the Hebbal locality on Monday night.

One particular poster read, "Bangalore rolls out the red carpet for CM Nitish Kumar!" This poster went on to highlight the incidents of bridge collapses that occurred in Bihar during Nitish Kumar's tenure. It listed the dates of the Sultanganj Bridge collapses, stating, "First Date of Sultanganj Bridge Collapse - April 2022, Second Date of Sultanganj Bridge Collapse - June 2023." Another poster sarcastically referred to him as "Shri Nitish Kumar, the CM, Government of Bihar, the man who builds underwater bridges," accompanied by images depicting the Sultanganj bridge collapse. Nitish Kumar is one of has yet to respond to these developments.

IAS Officers' misused by Congress Government

On Tuesday, former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy accused the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government of allegedly deputing IAS officers to serve its alliance leaders, who are in the state capital for the opposition parties' meet.

Kumaraswamy wrote on social media, "In its greed to wrest power by forging an alliance, Congress has performed the last rites for the pride, heritage, and self-esteem of Karnataka. It is wrong on the part of INC Karnataka to depute IAS officers to serve its alliance leaders. Is this what they meant by 'walk the talk,' IAS association? This is neither a state government program nor the swearing-in of a new government. It is just a political meeting. Deputing responsible officers to host its alliance political leaders is a grave injustice done to 6.5 crore Kannadigas and a great insult to the state," he stated. "They are not just officials; IAS officers are symbols of the State's ability and efficiency. They play a key role in the State's development. Deputing these officials as doorkeepers to serve politicians reflects the height of the ruling party's arrogance," he said. "This is a clear violation of All India Services (Conduct) Rules. I was surprised and shocked that officials agreed to do this job, knowing that it would dent their self-respect and honour. The Chief Secretary who issued such a controversial order is answerable to the people," the former CM said. Kumaraswamy also said "The Capitalist Congress party has introduced the 'IAS bonded labour' policy in the State, thus ushering in a new colonial administrative system in the country. Yes, Congress is always known for being infamous."

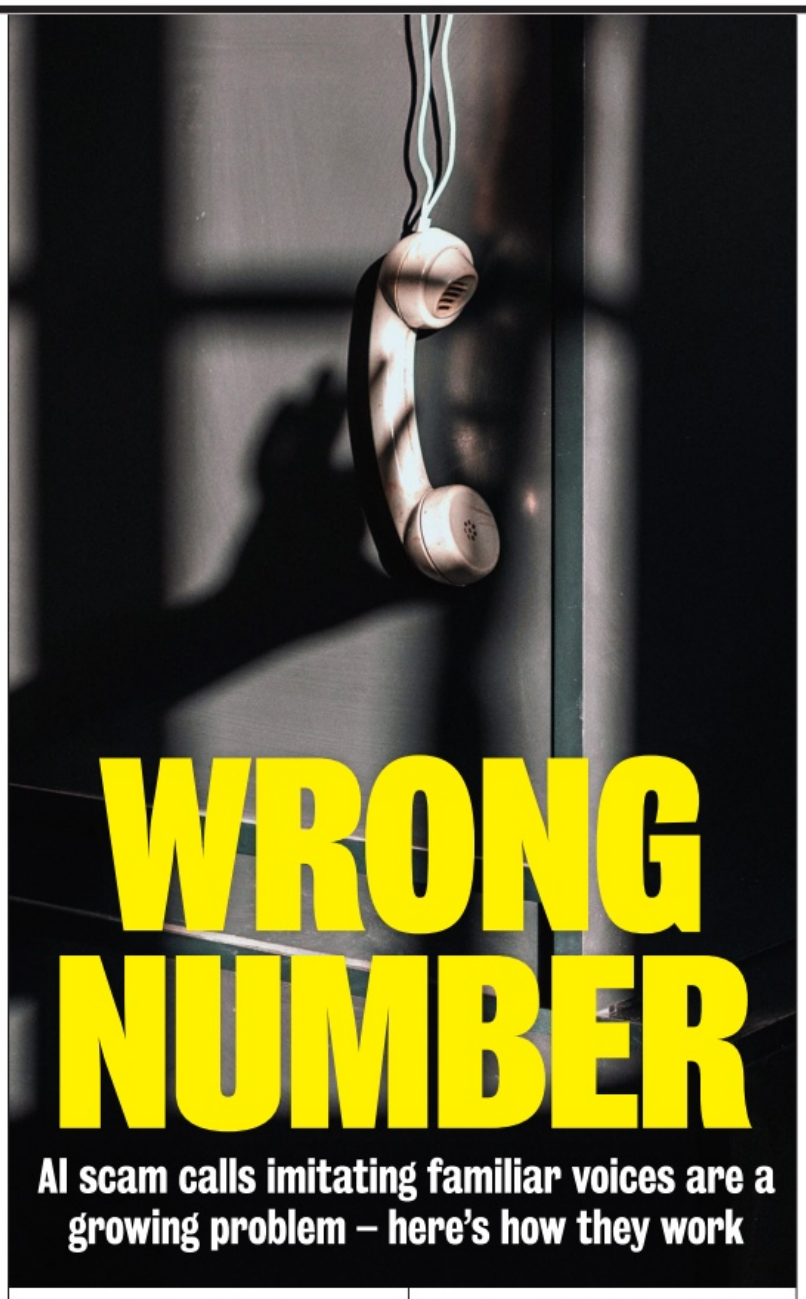
HDK denies participation in NDA Meeting

Contrary to speculations, HDK didn't take part in the NDA meeting held in Delhi on Tuesday. In fact, he chose to remain in his constituency Channapatna for almost the entire day. HDK categorically stated that he has not received any invitation from either the NDA or the Congress-led Mahagathbandhan to participate. "As far as I know, the NDA meet has been convened to discuss the uniform civil code. I have not received any formal invitation. If I do receive an invitation, then I shall consider it. As of now, there is no question of supporting anyone."

HEALTH TIP: Women typically experience a decline in bone density after menopause. This is due to a decrease in the hormone estrogen, which helps maintain bone mass

Millets, being predominantly gluten-free and abundant in dietary fibre, offer a wealth of essential vitamins and minerals

BangaloreMirror | 7
Wednesday, July 19, 2023
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/thebangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror



WRONG NUMBER

AI scam calls imitating familiar voices are a growing problem – here's how they work

Scam calls using AI to mimic voices of people you might know are being used to exploit unsuspecting members of the public. These calls use what's known as generative AI, which refers to systems capable of creating text, images or any other media such as video, based on prompts from a user.

Deepfakes have gained notoriety over the last few years with a number of high-profile incidents, such as actress Emma Watson's likeness being used in a series of suggestive adverts that appeared on Facebook and Instagram.

There was also the widely shared – and debunked – video from 2022 in which Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky appeared to tell Ukranians to "lay down arms".

Now, the technology to create an audio deepfake, a realistic copy of a person's voice, is becoming increasingly common. To create a realistic copy of someone's voice you need data to train the algorithm. This means having lots of audio recordings of your intended target's voice. The more examples of the person's voice that you can feed into the algorithms, the better and more convincing the eventual copy will be.

Many of us already share details of our daily lives on the internet. This means the audio data required to create a realistic copy of a voice could be readily available on social media. But what happens once a copy is out there? What is the worst that can happen? A deepfake algorithm could enable anyone in possession of the data to make "you" say whatever they want. In practice, this can be as simple as writing out some text and getting the computer to say it out loud in what sounds like your voice.

Major challenges

This capability risks increasing the prevalence of audio misinformation and disinformation. It can be used to try to influence international or national public opinion, as seen with the "videos" of Zelensky.

But the ubiquity and availability of these technologies poses significant challenges at a local level too – particularly in the growing trend of "AI scam calls". Many people will have received a scam or phishing call that tells us, for example, that our computer has been compromised and we must immediately log in, potentially giving the caller access to our data.

It is often very easy to spot that this is a hoax, especially when the caller is making requests that someone from a legitimate organisation would not. However, now imagine that the voice on the other end of the phone is not just a stranger, but sounds exactly like a friend or loved one. This injects a whole new level of complexity, and panic, for the unlucky recipient.

A recent story reported by CNN highlights an incident where a mother received a call from an unknown number. When she answered the phone, it was her daughter. The daughter had allegedly been kidnapped and was phoning her mother to pass on a ransom demand.

In fact, the girl was safe and sound. The scammers had made a deepfake of her voice. This is not an isolated incident, with variations of the scam including a supposed car accident, where the victim calls their family for money to help them out after a crash.

Old trick using new tech

This is not a new scam in itself, the term "virtual kidnapping scam" has been around for several years. It can take many forms but a common approach is to trick victims into paying a ransom to free a loved one they believe is being threatened.

The scammer tries to establish unquestioning compliance, in order to get the victim to pay a quick ransom before the deception is discovered. However, the dawn of powerful and available AI technologies has upped the ante significantly – and made things more personal. It is one thing to hang up on an anonymous caller, but it takes real confidence in your judgement to hang up on a call from someone sounding just like your child or partner.

There is software that can used to identify deepfakes, and will create a visual representation of the audio called a spectrogram. When you are listening to the call it might seem impossible to tell it apart from the real person, but voices can be distinguished when spectrograms are analysed side-by-side. At least one group has offered detection software for download, though such solutions may still require some technical knowledge to use.

Most people will not be able to generate spectrograms so what can you do when you are not certain what you are hearing is the real thing? As with any other form of media you might come across: be sceptical.

If you receive a call from a loved one out of the blue and they ask you for money or make requests that seem out of character, call them back or send them a text to confirm you really are talking to them.

As the capabilities of AI expand, the lines between reality and fiction will increasingly blur. And it is not likely that we will be able to put the technology back in the box. This means that people will need to become more cautious.

(By Oliver Buckley, University of East Anglia, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Majority of students in 14-17 age group not aware vaping, e-cigarettes banned: Survey

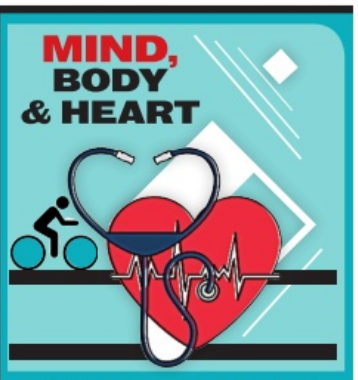
Ninety-six per cent of students in the age group of 14-17 years who took part in a survey do not know that vapes and similar electronic devices are banned in India, while 89 per cent of them are unaware of their harmful effects, according to a study.

The survey findings come amid the Union Health Ministry sending notices to 15 websites selling e-cigarettes, which are banned in India, directing them to stop advertisement and sale of the products.

The study titled "Ideas for an Addiction-Free India" was conducted by the Think Change Forum (TCF), an independent think tank which recently conducted the survey in covering 1,007 students in public schools in Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru.

The survey finds that an overwhelming majority of 96 per cent of the children surveyed were not aware that vaping and similar electronic devices are banned in India.

A staggering 89 per cent of children in the age group of 14 to 17 years in grades 9 to 12 are unaware of the harmful effects associated with 'vaping' and similar electronic devices, it finds. Among those who were not aware of the harmful effects of vaping, 52 per cent perceived vaping as "completely harmless" and viewed it as a cool and fashionable activity. Another 37 per cent considered it "moderately harmful" but lacked understanding about the nature of the harm. Only 11 per cent of the children correctly identified vaping and other electronic devices as harmful, the study found. — PTI



All you need to know about...

Anti-ageing function

Secret protein
Researchers have found an anti-ageing function in a protein deep within human cells.
The protein, ATSF-1, controlled the fine balance between creation of new and repair of damaged mitochondria, the part of the cell responsible for producing energy, the researchers at the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), The University of Queensland, Australia, discovered.

Mitochondrial dysfunction
"Mitochondrial dysfunction lies at the core of many human diseases, including common age-related diseases such as dementia and Parkinson's," said associate professor at QBI, Steven Zuryn.
While the energy produced by the mitochondria powers biological functions, the toxic by-products of this process contribute to the ageing process of the cell.

Healthy ageing
"Our finding could have exciting implications for healthy ageing and for people with inherited mitochondrial diseases. "In conditions of stress, when mitochondrial DNA has been damaged, the ATSF-1 protein prioritises repair which promotes cellular health and longevity," said Zuryn.

Pitstop
As an analogy, Zuryn likened the relationship to a race car needing a pitstop. "ATSF-1 makes the call that a pitstop is needed for the cell when mitochondria need repairs.

Cell repair
Understanding how cells promote repair is an important step towards identifying possible interventions to pr event mitochondrial damage, the authors said in the study published in the journal Nature Cell Biology said.

— PTI

4 amendment bills tabled in Assembly

The Karnataka government on Tuesday introduced the Karnataka Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Karnataka Assembly to constitute a common cadre of employees.

The key objective of the bill is to reduce irregularities taking place in primary agricultural societies and function without any pressure from the governing body.

The government also tabled the Code of Civil Procedure (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Assembly, which seeks to provide speedy disposal of cases to help small and marginal farmers and people from the economically weaker sections, who cannot fight prolonged litigations in courts.

The proposed amendment will ensure speedy justice to dispose of cases within the stipulated time frame.

The Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2023, tabled in the Lower House on Tuesday aims to enable diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes by way of self-declaration.

The government also tabled the Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill in the Assembly enabling the registering officer to refuse to register forged documents and other documents prohibited by law. **PTI**

Your Connect

NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, UTTARAHALLI

CA Site No.1, Happy Valley Layout, Banashankari 5th Stage, Uttarahalli, Bangalore- 560061

INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM

1. Special Educator- Graduate/ Post Graduate in Psychology/ Child Development/ certification in career guidance
2. Wellness/ Lifeskills Counsellor
3. Accountant- BCom/ MCom with relevant experience
4. Admin- Graduate with relevant experience
5. Computer/Coding- B.E/ BCA/ MCA/ BSc/ MSc Computer Science
6. Maths, Social Science, English (B.Ed)

9513536222/ 9483581828
080-26730004/07

Resumes accepted at:
admin@npsuttarahalli.com
info@npsuttarahalli.com
principal@npsuttarahalli.com
www.npsuttarahalli.com

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

TEACHER

WANTED Lady Computer Teacher, Head Mistress & Lady Accountant. Walk-in @ New Bishop Cotton English High School, Hosur Road, Singasandra,B'lore-68, Ph:9886415557

ADMINISTRATION

DELIVERY BOYS

WANTED DELIVERY BOYS with two wheeler for Surgical Distributors. Salary 15000 + Perks. Contact 82962 11123 Near Lalbagh metro station.

MANAGERS

MANAGERIAL JOB Oppty for Retd, Bankers, Homemaker . Salary+Incevs.Presetn. Sat, 22-07-23, 10.30am, Hotel Pai Vihar Corpn Circle. 8317465449

RECEPTIONISTS & TEL OPERATORS

LOOKING for Telecallers for Car Insurance/ Car Loan Process/ Field Executive Basaveshwar Nagar/ Peenya/ Kengeri :9611450180/ 9535711744

MARKETING, ADVERTISING & SALES

SALES

WANTED, Exp Center Head, Tele caller, Cr Counselor for Reputed Distance & Online Edu Center @ BSK 6th Stg, Near Talaghattapura Metro, whatsapp 9353730769

MATERIALS & LOGISTICS

GENERAL

HIRING! Freelancers / Agents to distribute books to schools without investment. Earn high income. For Further details contact -7411047555

OTHER VACANCIES

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

WANTED:
CIVIL ENGINEER (Vidyapeeta) / ACCOUNTANT (Majestic)for a reputed builder / hotel industry in Bangalore; Contact/Whatsapp 8147694162

THE TIMES GROUP
Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times Of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and Owners of The Times Of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

BENGALURU JOBS Wanted Immdlty MANAGERS, RECRUITERS, TELE CALLERS. Good Salary Ladies Pick/ Drop Call: 99000-54469

RETIRED PERSONS

Earning Opportunity for SENIOR CITIZENS & HOME MAKERS. Regular INCOME 50K to 1 Lac Per Month. Presentation on 22nd-Jul-23 (Sat) 10.30am at HOTEL Pai Vihar Corporation Circle, OTC Road Contact: 9241721278

TECHNICAL

ENGINEERS

BVL GROUP
Leading Developers Mysore has immediate opening for
PROJECT MANAGER
5 years and above experience
CIVIL ENGINEER
layout experience- 3 years and above
TOTAL STATION SURVEYORS & QUANTITY SURVEYOR (QS)
3 years and above experience
PREMIO SIGNATURE,
Sy No. 10/3, Choranahalli, Varuna Hobli, Mysore - 570010
sai@bvlgroup.net
bvldevelopers@gmail.com
For any queries please call -
9632059887

services

COUNSELLING

ASHA Foundation
HIV Counseling & Testing.
Call: 080- 2354 2222 / 2354 3333
Mon - Fri: 9am - 5pm.
Email: ashafblr@yahoo.co.in
Anonymous & Confidential

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

JP NAGAR

DOLLARS Colony 50x80 5 BHK N/F Duplex House & 50x80 W/F Site 60x90 Commrcl 100feet Ring Rd & 30x40, 45x62 Sits Sale SS Realtors 9845760178

TO BOOK YOUR TIMES INTERACT ADS
Stay safe. Stay home.
Call/mail us for contact-less ad booking. To book your Times Interact ads
Call 080-23338111
All digital payment solutions available

MANAGED
FARMLAND
AFTER
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ON NH-7
•Club House • Weekend holiday home • Retirement home • Primary home for IT professionals
•Pleasant Weather
Ready for Registration
CALL FOR MORE DETAILS :
8880665577
RK
Rs. 250/- Per Sft

RICHARDS TOWN

Richards Town Davis Road Sale New 'A' Katha 2BHK Flats- 1100- 1180 Sft (without Car park) @ 4900/ Sft. MAY FLOWER APARTMENTS. Contact Murthy- 90351-46978

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Achamma Ouseph W/O, Ouseph P L R/o Bethlehem House No 116 2nd C Cross Ombr Layout Blr-560043 have changed my name to C O Acharu for all purposes.

I, Naseem Abid Taqui W/o Late Abid Habib Taqui, D/o Late Yusuf Abdulla Merchant Residing at No.601, 6th 'G' Cross, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560095 I Swear that my name is Naseem A Taqui or Sometimes spelt as Naseem Yusuf Merchant or sometimes spelt as Naseem Abid Taqui or sometimes as Naseem Bai, four the names are my name only and none other than me. for all future correspondent my name shall be considered Naseem Abid Taqui vide affidavit dated 17.07.2023 Sworn before Notary R.Sulakshana, Bangalore

I, Ramesh Kallikuppa Munishamaiah S/o Kallikuppa Munishamappa Munishamaiah R/a #34, 2nd Cross, CSR Golden Gate Layout, Near Kodandarama Swamy Temple, Medahalli, Bengaluru-560049 have changed my name to Vidwan Ramesh Kallikuppa Munishamaiah affidavit dated 17.07.2023 before notary Gangaraju B.N, B.lore.

I, SYEDHAYATHSAB SHAMSHEER KHAN, R/a #994/1, Jamiya Masjid Rd, Vijinapura Kothur Bangalore-16. I, have changed my name to SHAMSHEER KHAN Vide affidavit dated 17/07/2023, Sworn before Notary: M. Rajendra, Bangalore

I, FAIROZ KHAN SHAMSHEER KHAN, R/a, #994/1, Dasthagir Rd, Jamiya Masjid, Vijinapura, Kothur, Bangalore-560016. I, have changed my name to FAIROZE KHAN Vide affidavit dated 17/07/2023, Sworn before Notary: M.Rajendra, Bangalore

I Aju Archana Gejjegondanahalli Varadar R/o C-201, Jalvayu Heights, H.M.T. Main Road, Jalasoudha, Jalahalli West, Jalahalli, Bengaluru-560013 have changed my name to Archana Gejjegondanahalli Varadaraju

I, Manjunath Marathe R/o Kempaiah House Chatra, Banandur road, Bidadi Post, Ramanagara 562109 have changed my name Manjunath Krishnaji Marathe, affidavit Dt.18/07/2023 notary Harisha G Bengaluru

I, Pachchamatla Ramakrishna Raju R/o 119, 2nd Block, 4th cross, Vishwapriya Layout, Begur, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my name to Pachchamatla Ramakrishnam-raju affidavit Dt.18/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, VASEEULLA HIDAYATHULLA R/a #664/1a, Ambedkar Road, Tippunagar, Bangarpet-563114. I, have changed my name to SYED VASEEULLA, Vide affidavit dated 14/07/2023 Sworn before Notary: M. Rajendra Bangalore

I, Vasanti Uday Mehta w/o Uday Natuar Mehta R/o 3021 Prestige Wellington Park 1-2 IAF Road Near Gangamma Circle Jalahalli B'luru-560013 have Changed my name to Vasanti Mehta for all purposes.

I, Chaithra K C W/O, Yashodhara H R/o Avalahalli, Singanayakanahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my name Chaithra K C to Hema K C for all purposes.

I, Rajeswari Pacha W/O, Mohan Y R/o B Block 102 Mahaghar Vajra Apartments Bayanpalya Vajarahalli B'luru - 560062 have changed my name to Rajeshwari Mohan Nayadu for all purposes.

I, KHUTHEJA BI, R/a, #192/A, 2nd Cross, Tippunagar, Chamrajpet, Bangalore-560018. I, have changed my name to KHUTEJA BI, Vide affidavit dated 17/07/2023, Sworn before Notary: M.Rajendra, Bangalore

I, RANGARAJU LAKSHMINARAYANA, Residing at No. 14, 10th Cross, Cubbon Pet, Bengaluru-560002, have changed my name to RANGARAJ LAKSHMINARAY ANA, vide affidavit dated: 18.07.2023 before notary V. Rajashekhara, Bengaluru.

I Shashank Ravikumar Ramakrishna Reddy R/o No 1, 2nd Cross, Kodihalli, HAL Main Road, B'luru-560008 have Changed my name to Shashank Reddy Ramakrishna Reddy Ravikumar for all Purposes.

GET NOTICED

Court grants interim bail to Brij Bhushan

Wrestlers' sexual harassment case: Court notes WFI chief appeared before it without coercion

WFI chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh leaves Rouse Avenue Court, in New Delhi on Tuesday

#NEW DELHI

A Delhi court Tuesday granted two-day interim bail to embattled Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in the sexual harassment case lodged by women wrestlers, noting that he was not arrested during the investigation and appeared before it "without any coercive process".

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Harjeet Singh Jaspal, who also granted interim bail to Vinod Tomar, the suspended WFI assistant secretary, granted relief to both of them on a personal bond of Rs 25,000 each.

The court passed the order after the public prosecutor representing Delhi police submitted even though the charge sheet has been filed without arrest he was still opposed to the bail applications.

"In the matter at hand, the charge sheet has been filed without arrest. As per the police report, the accused persons have cooperated with investigation, the accused persons have put in appearance today upon court summons, that is to say, without any coercive process," the magistrate noted.

He also noted that the alleged offences were punishable with imprisonment of not more than seven years.

"Accused persons undertake to remain present before this court whenever called for and are further ready and willing to furnish bail and are ready to comply with every condition on bail. In these circumstances, this court is bound to follow the mandate of the Apex Court," he said. The Supreme Court had ruled in 2022 that where the offences were punishable with imprisonment of seven years or less and the charge sheet has been filed without arrest and the accused has cooperated,, the bail applications may be decided without the accused being taken into physical custody or by granting them interim bail till the bail application is decided. – PTI

Bajrang, Vinesh get entry into Asian Games; others upset

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang Punia and two-time world championships medallist Vinesh Phogat were exempted from appearing in the selection trials and got direct entries for the upcoming Asian Games 2023 by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) ad-hoc committee on Tuesday.

The circular signed by Bhupender Singh Bajwa, Member-Ad-hoc committee, didn't mention the names of Bajrang and Vinesh, but said that it has already selected wrestlers in men's freestyle 65kg and women's 53kg.

However, selection trials will be conducted in all the 18 weight categories, including in the divisions of Bajrang and Vinesh. The winner of the trials in these two weight classes (men's freestyle 65kg and women's 53kg) will be kept in standbys. The exemption was granted based on Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) regulation for selection trials for the Asian Games.

"The selection trials in all weight categories are mandatory, however, the selection committee will have the discretion to select iconic players like medallists of Olympics/World Championships without trials provided recommendation by chief coach/foreign expert," the WFI regulations say.

With Bajrang and Vinesh getting exemption, other wrestlers are reportedly not pleased with the decision and might move to court. – IANS

38 NDA allies meet, PM hails it as time-tested bond

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leaders ahead of their meeting, at 'The Ashok Hotel', in New Delhi on Tuesday

#New Delhi

Leaders of 38 parties joined a meeting of the BJP-led NDA here on Tuesday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that the bloc is a time-tested alliance that seeks to further national progress and fulfil regional aspirations. Prime Minister Modi was welcomed by BJP president J P Nadda, Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, former Tamil Nadu chief minister and AIADMK leader K Palaniswami and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

The meeting coincides with the mega opposition conclave in Bengaluru and is seen as a show of strength by the ruling party. Prime Minister Modi said the coming together of NDA allies is a matter of "immense joy".

He tweeted, "It is a matter of joy that our valued NDA partners from across India will be attending the meeting in Delhi today. Ours is a time-tested alliance which seeks to further national progress and fulfil regional aspirations." Union minister Pralhad Joshi and BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde welcomed the leaders. – PTI

Former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy's death mourned

#NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday condoled the demise of its veteran leader Oommen Chandy, with party president Mallikarjun Kharge saying that the former Kerala chief minister, with his unwavering commitment and visionary leadership, has left an indelible mark on the state's progress and the nation's politics. Chandy died at a private hospital in Bengaluru in the early hours of Tuesday after a prolonged illness. He was 79.

Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi along with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar visited former state minister late T John's residence in Indiranagar, where Chandy's mortal remains were kept, to pay their last respects.

In a letter to Chandy's wife Mariamma Oommen, former prime minister Manmohan Singh said, "I have learnt with profound sorrow the demise of your beloved husband Shri Oommen Chandy ji today. He was a leader of high esteem who was respected by everybody irrespective of party lines."

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah pays last respects to former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy

"He was a mass leader and distinguished administrator who devoted his whole life to the service of the people. He will always be remembered for his contribution to the Indian National Congress and the state of Kerala," the former prime minister said. "My wife joins me to convey to you and other members of your family our deepest condolences on this sad occasion. May God give all of you the strength to bear this great loss with courage and fortitude," he said.

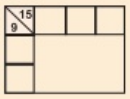
Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi also condoled Chandy's demise.

"Oommen Chandy ji was an exemplary grassroots Congress leader. He will be remembered for his lifelong service to the people of Kerala," Gandhi said on Twitter, adding, "We will miss him dearly. Much love and condolences to all his loved ones." The Congress said on Twitter, "Deeply saddened by the passing of former Kerala chief minister Oommen Chandy." – PTI

CILLIAN MURPHY
EMILY BLUNT
MATT DAMON
ROBERT DOWNEY JR.
FLORENCE PUGH
A FILM BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN
OPPENHEIMER
21 7 23
ENGLISH & HINDI
SHOT WITH IMAX FILM CAMERAS
WRITTEN FOR THE SCREEN AND DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN
IN IMAX AT
PVR - INOX CINEMAS {Forum Mall, Koramangala | Vega City | VR Mall | Mantri Square Mall | Galleria Mall, Yelahanka} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {Shanthiniketan}.
PVR - INOX CINEMAS | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS | GOPALAN CINEMAS | INNOVATIVE | MIRAJ CINEMAS | SWAGATH SHANKARNAG | MUKTA 2 CINEMAS | CINEPHILE | KINO CINEMAS | DRC CINEMAS MYSORE | BHARATH CINEMAS | MOVIETIME DAVANGERE & OTHER CINEMAS.
FARNAZ

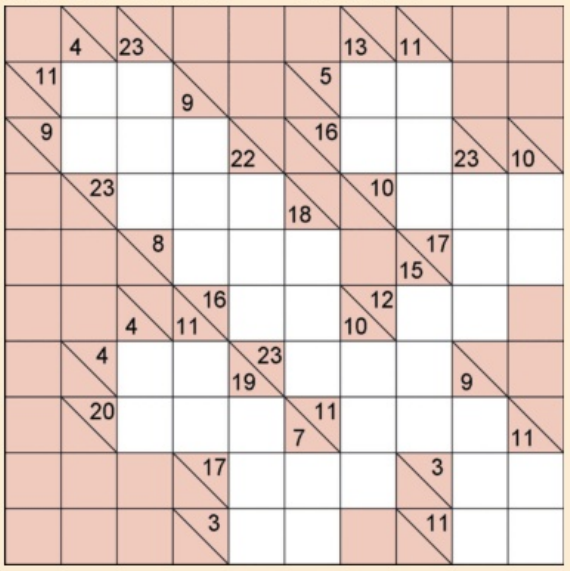
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

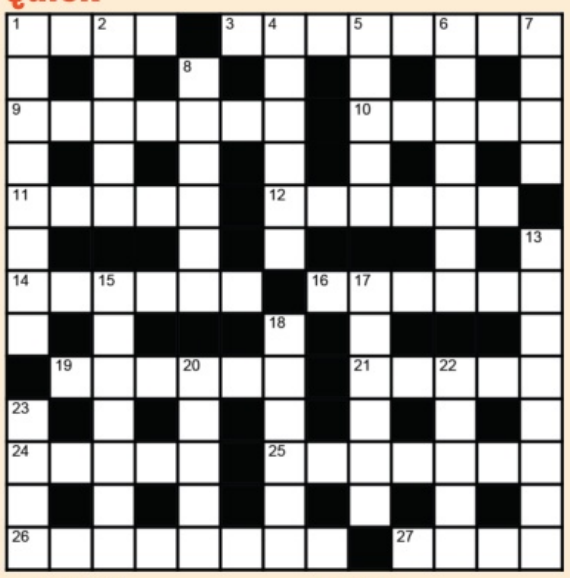


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Indian monarch or king (4)
3 Allures, beguiles or fascinates (8)
9 M in M G Road (7)
10 Constellation : The scales (5)
11 Standards (5)
12 He accepts your bets! (6)
14 Self-justification (6)
16 Furnace worker (6)
19 Feeling of ill-will (6)
21 Indian dish of cucumber in yoghurt (5)
24 Smudge (5)
25 Shows servility (7)
26 ___ at : located at? (8)
27 Utilizes (4)

DOWN

1 Brought to mind; suggested to? (8)
2 Producer and director Karan _____ (5)
4 Close at hand (6)
5 A greeting (5)
6 A type of golf club (7)
7 Close up (4)
8 State of equilibrium (6)
13 Southern US state (8)
15 National park in Uttarakhand (7)
17 Perplexed or confused (6)
18 Jeer a public speaker (6)
20 Hindu goddess of war (5)
22 Graven images (5)
23 Venomous snakes (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS G

KQADS HSSGAWM FSCSWMS, XAM PKU MFLCSH–UWS EUF NUTFHSDE.

Linemaro

I want to stop the moon and make this night and your beauty last forever

Mindchow

Perfect happiness is the absence of striving for happiness

Joke of the day

Teacher: What is Facebook all about? Student: Ma'am, it's all about a face.

Loop

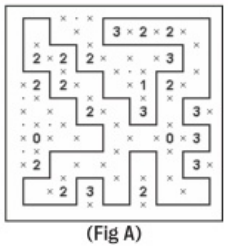
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

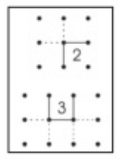
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

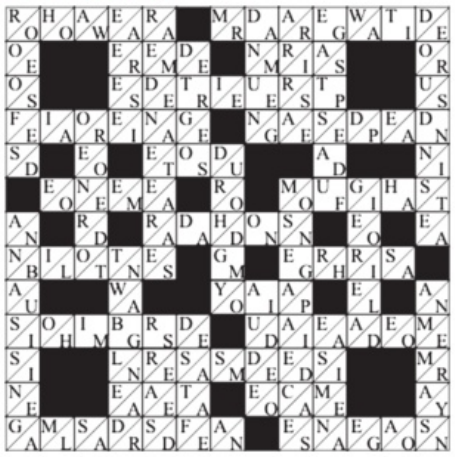


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

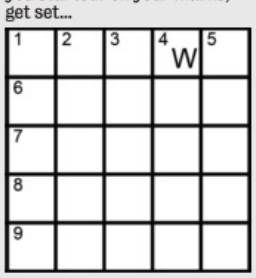
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

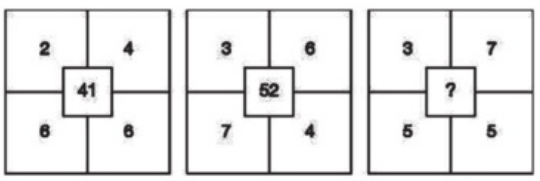
1 Wards; 6 Iters;
7 To duo; 8 So ire;
9 Pryer

DOWN

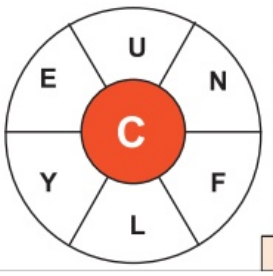
1 Do Pro; 2 Us ere;
3 Stair; 4 Weird;
5 Troys

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		6		8		4		
			7		3			
2				1				7
4		3	2		5	7		9
5		8				2		4
7		9	3		8	5		6
8				7				3
			8		1			
		4		2		8		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 11
2 4 6 7

Medium = 6
1 6 7 8

Hard = 41
2 6 7 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Briefcase is moved. 2. Window is different. 3. Man is thinner. 4. Doorknob is higher. 5. Pocket is added. 6. Hat is larger.

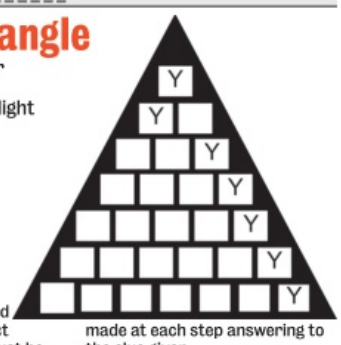
Riddler

Beginning with "de", add letters from the given pool to create a seven-letter word which means "to withhold something". Do not rearrange the letters as you go. Pool: E R V P I

1) DE
2) ___
3) ____
4) _____
5) ______
6) _______

Alpha triangle

1 Second last letter
2 Yes, slang
3 Narrow beam of light
4 Salver
5 Watery-eyed
6 Enthusiastic
7 Sudsy



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

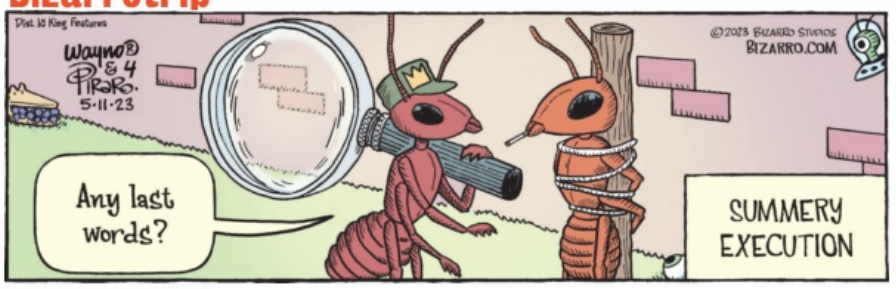
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

FATHER! THE PALEFACES HAVE CAPTURED TANGLEFOOT!
HE WAS OUT THERE MINDING HIS OWN BUSINESS...JUST RIDING ALONE...
YAWN
RIDING!.. WHY THOSE DIRTY HORSE THIEVES!!

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

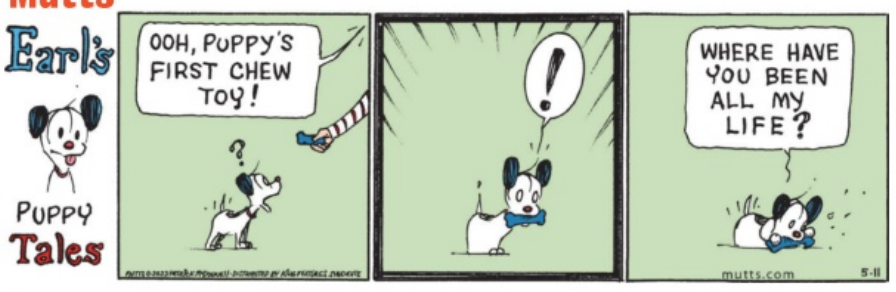
Hart of the city

ARE YOU GUYS READY TO RUN THE MILE FOR GYM?
I'LL DO GREAT. I HAVE LUNGS OF STEEL FROM ACTING.
BREATHING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF RUNNING.
I THOUGHT RUNNING WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF RUNNING.

Crankshaft

HI, I'M SKIP RAWLINGS FROM THE CENTERVILLE SENTINEL!
I'D HEARD THAT THE VALENTINE IS UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP.
IT IS... BUT WE'RE NOT OPEN YET.
HONEY, THIS MAN IS HERE FROM THE PAPER BECAUSE HE HEARD THAT THE VALENTINE IS UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP.
IT IS... BUT WE'RE NOT OPEN YET.
WOW! THERE'S QUITE AN ECHO IN HERE!
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and you may likely hear some good news in terms of work and business. You may enjoy your domestic life with full swings of joy. You are advised to avoid making arguments on worthless topics, as overexcitement may test your patience. It's a good time to make important decisions regarding investments in assets. Students are advised to be focused on their studies.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be able to implement business plans successfully with the support of your subordinates. You might participate in social or family gatherings, which can boost your network. Short business-related travels are likely, which could bring benefits in the near future.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be blessed by the moon and receive a big order with the help of overseas contacts. There might be moments of anxiety, but you'll somehow be able to control it. Students may study subjects in depth, and investors are advised to make long-term investments for fruitful gains.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is good for your work, and you may perform well in terms of your job. Your boss may give you more responsibilities, possibly leading to promotions. Your rivals and opponents are now under control. You may lend money to invest in your assets and plan for your kids' future.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today is a good day, and your financial health is likely to be good. Benefits from past investments may come your way. Controlling unnecessary spending will boost your savings. Love birds are advised to be polite in their conversations with their partners to avoid conflicts.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be busy at work and face some difficulties in completing tasks, which may upset you. But with blessings from elders and gurus, you can overcome this situation. Due to workload, you may feel mentally tired and might not be able to give time to your family. However, your siblings may support you to maintain domestic harmony.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel very dull, which could make you lazy and careless, affecting your focus at work. Impatience may have a negative impact on you. Concerns about the health of kids and your spouse may upset you. It's best to avoid making investments in assets. Love birds should also avoid arguments in family matters.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be busy dealing with issues related to siblings and relatives. Planning to start a new venture with the help of your siblings and network is possible. You may receive an order that will boost your family business, and your network can assist you in successfully completing tasks. Some smart gains are expected after a little effort.

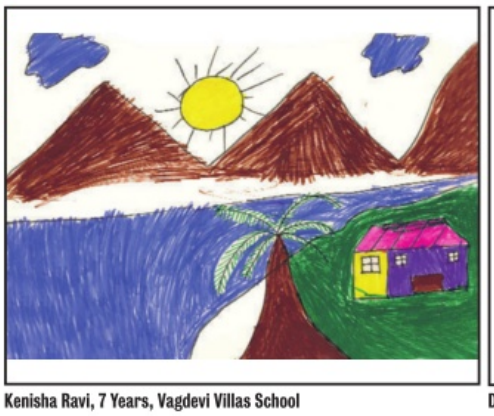
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, things are under control, and the crunch of the last few days may be over. You'll feel calm and cool, with a good focus on your goals. Disputes in partnerships may settle, and property-related litigation might be resolved. Some romantic moments with loved ones are also possible.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, negative vibrations surround you, making you unhappy. It's advisable to avoid investing in worthless assets. Your friends may not be very supportive today, so don't expect too much help from them to avoid further disappointment. Follow your intuition before making important decisions.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel negative due to sleeplessness last night, leading to dullness that could affect your work. Postpone investments in your work for now, as you may become a victim of conspiracy. Keep an eye on opponents and rivals. Love birds are advised to be patient to avoid unnecessary arguments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today is not a good day for you, as you may be a victim of negative thoughts and impatience, which could hinder your decision-making. Seek the blessings of your elders to overcome difficult situations. Avoid making investments in dead assets, and love birds should avoid discussing worthless topics.

KIDZONE



Kenisha Ravi, 7 Years, Vagdevi Villas School

Dharuna Anurag, 7 Years, National Hill View Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru- 560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
144 ÷ 6(6) + 12 =
[144 ÷ 6]6 +12 =
24 × 6 + 12 =
144 + 12 = 156

BULL'S EYE
clef, clue, FLUENCY, uncle

STRIKE OUT

R	O	W	E	R		M	A	R	G	A	T	E		
O		E	R	I	E	S	T				U			
O		E	A	T		E	C	E			A			
N		L	E	S	S	E	E	S			M			
I		L	E	S	S						E			
S	O	M	B	R	E		D	I	A	D	E	M		
U		A		Y	I	P		E		A				
B	L	O	T	S		G	E	R	R	S				
A	D		R	A	D	O	N		O		E			
	O	N	M	E		O	U	G	H	T				
S		O		T	O	D		A		I				
F	I	R	I	N	G		N	E	E	D	E	D		
	A		A		R		L		L		L			
M	A	H	A	T	M	A		L	I	B	R	A		
E		O		S		E		I		E				
R	A	J	A		E	N	C	H	A	N	T	S		
S	I	T	U	A	T	E	D		U	S	E	S		

FAST FIVE

D	R	A	W	S
R	E	S	I	T
O	U	T	D	O
O	S	I	E	R
P	E	R	R	Y

QUOTE UNCODE
While seeking revenge, dig two graves – one for yourself.

QUICK
1) DE,
2) Die,
3) Dive,
4) Drive,
5) Dive,
6) Deprive

MENSA PUZZLE
75: 5 × 75 = 375.
Similarly 7 × 52 = 364

SUDOKU

3	7	6	9	8	2	4	5	1
9	4	1	7	5	3	6	2	8
2	8	5	4	1	6	3	9	7
4	1	3	2	6	5	7	8	9
5	6	8	1	9	7	2	3	4
8	9	2	5	7	4	1	6	3
7	2	9	3	4	8	5	1	6
6	5	7	8	3	1	9	4	2
1	3	4	6	2	9	8	7	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
Y, Ya, Ray, Tray, Teary, Hearty, Lathery.

GO FIGURE
7 + 2 – 4 + 6 = 11
Easy
6 – 7 – 1 + 8 = 6
Medium
6 x 7 – 3 + 2 = 41
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 16, Issue No 20 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru – 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Sofia splits with husband — Actress Sofia Vergara and Joe Manganiello are getting a divorce after being married for seven years. The actors announced the split after seven years of marriage in a joint statement on Monday, reports hollywoodreporter

Dangerous liaisons

Actress Monica Bedi hit the headlines this week after she opened up about her struggle to make a comeback in films, because of her past relationship with gangster Abu Salem. Monica is not the only star to have a romantic relationship with a gangster. We've drawn up a list of beauties who were linked to gang lords and the underworld mafia. Take a look... —ETimes

Mandakini

Mandakini was one of the biggest actresses of her time, thanks to her breakout role in Raj Kapoor's Ram Teri Ganga Maili. However, like most other stars of her time, her rumoured love life often grabbed the headlines. The actress reportedly caught the attention of Dawood Abraham who was so captivated with her beauty that he was reportedly instrumental in influencing producers to cast her as their leading lady and would in turn finance their films.

Monica Bedi

Monica Bedi, starred in several hit films, including Jodi No 1, but it was her personal life that took over the headlines. The actress was famously known for her relationship with gangster Abu Salem. She even spent some time in jail on the charges of document forgery. It is no secret that the gangster fell in love with the actress and went to great lengths to get her roles in movies. Some even say that he threatened film producers and directors to cast her in their movies.
In her latest interview, the actress revealed that she has been struggling to make a comeback to films owing to her past relationship.

Sona Mastan Mirza

Actress Sona made waves in the Hindi film industry during the 1970s and 1980s. She was, however, noted for her romance with gangster Haji Mastan. The Indian mafia gang leader had his heart set on another actress, Madhubala. However, he couldn't marry her as she died young. Reeling from the shock of her demise, Haji began dating Sona for her likeness to the late star. Despite knowing Haji's fondness for Madhubala, the actress agreed to marry him.

Marilyn Monroe

Hollywood actress Marilyn Monroe is said to have dated gang leader Sam Giancana and even spent her last evening alive with him at Sinatra's lodge. This detail was made public by the actress' hair and make-up stylist. According to reports, Marilyn was in love with the gangster and he apparently tried to persuade her not to go public about her alleged affair with President John F Kennedy.

Chiffon chic

Actress Alia Bhatt channeled her inner perfect Karan Johar 'heroine', as she looked gorgeous in an ombre-hued chiffon saree during the launch of the song 'Ve Kamleya' from the upcoming film 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' here on Tuesday.

During her visit to the national capital, Alia was seen wearing a chiffon ombre saree with a blend of pastel shades of pink, lavender, orange and yellow.

She paired it with a purple coloured sleeveless blouse, silver jhumkas with a hint of pink and blue in it, and a silver ring on her finger. She opted for a minimal make-up look -- nude glossy lips, highlighted cheeks and open hair.

Alia looked every inch a quintessential Bollywood heroine that filmmaker Karan Johan typically portrays in his romantic sagas, which till date have turned into blockbusters.

On the other hand, Ranveer looked dapper in black suit paired with a formal white shirt and black sunglasses.

Keeping the vibe light, Ranveer even dedicated a song on Alia's chiffon saree, as he was seen singing 'Tum Kya Mile', giving it a twist by rephrasing a line dedicated to the saree she wore.

Even in the song 'Tum Kya Mile' from 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani', Alia could be seen wearing a bunch of chiffon sarees. The track looks like an ode to legendary filmmaker Yash Chopra, as it brings back the memories of his films such as 'Chandani', where the late Sridevi looked magical in a yellow saree, and 'Silsila', in which Rekha stunned in white.

Alia in a vlog had revealed her favourite look from the song, which was in a black chiffon saree. In that video, KJo was heard saying, "Three decades of chiffon sarees." —ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

From plays to film

Kanasu Ramesh, who has directed more than 250 plays, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with Ayuktha that is scheduled for release on July 28 at theaters across the state.

"Encouraged by friends and well-wishers, I decided to direct Ayuktha. They told me that the plays directed by me were on par with Kannada movies," said Kanasu Ramesh.

A function was held to release a special song of the movie at Renukamba Preview Theater recently. "The song – Quarter Bottle Naalakkusaari – is an added attraction for the movie. Alisa Andre makes a guest appearance in the song," said Ramesh.

He said that he could not pursue higher studies due to poverty. "I am from PT Koppal near Malavalli in Mandya. My parents could not afford to send me for higher studies due to poverty. Theater has been my passion during high school days. I passed SSLC and have been directing dramas all these years. I have been trying for an opportunity to direct a movie for 11 years and now I have made it," he said.

Ayuktha is bankrolled by Viswas R Gangadkar under the Balaji Creations banner. "The movie revolves around graduates and their problems in selecting and getting jobs," the director said.

Choreographer directs

Raja Kalai Kumar, a well-known choreographer of Sandalwood, is set to join the list of choreographers who become directors. Kumar, who has done choreography for more than 300 Kannada movies, debuts as a director with a film starring Prajwal Devaraj.

"I hail from a middle-class family. I did not have interest in pursuing higher studies due to financial problems. I got an opportunity to compose choreography for one song of the movie Meravanige. The song was picturised in Bangkok. Prajwal Devaraj and Aindrita Ray were the lead pair in that movie," says Kumar.

Kumar will now direct his first Kannada movie. "I engaged three script writers from Chennai and three script writers from Bengaluru to write a script for this movie during the Covid 19 pandemic. I narrated the script to Prajwal Devaraj who gave a green signal to me. I am planning to conduct a workshop before commencing the shooting of the movie," he said.

He said he is happy to have this opportunity. "I consider it as luck for me to helm a movie for Prajwal Devaraj. I began my career as a choreographer with Prajwal's movie Meravanige. Now, I am beginning my career as a director with Prajwal Devaraj's movie," he said.